



# News Release

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1301 N. Orchard St., Boise, ID 83706 - TEL: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866

Internet Homepage: <http://www.idwr.state.id.us>

---

Release 2003-35

### **SECOND WIND MEASUREMENT SITE INSTALLED IN SILVER CITY RANGE WIND POWER PROJECT**

For Immediate Release  
Boise, Idaho - June 25, 2003

For Media Information Contact:  
Dick Larsen - (208) 327-7933

*Editor's Note: Digital Photos of this project are available upon request.*

State wind power scientists have installed a second wind measurement system on state land in the Owyhee Mountains as part of the developing Silver City Range wind power project, the Idaho Energy Division said today.

The 30 meter (98 feet) anemometer tower was installed Tuesday (June 24) on a site at an altitude of 7,883 feet near War Eagle Mountain, about three miles from Silver City.

A pair of special wind measurement units, located on the tower at 10 meters (33 feet) and 30 meters (98 feet) above the ground, will record wind speeds on special data chips which will be replaced every couple months.

Scientists at the Idaho National Engineering Environmental Laboratory will then download the data from the chips and convert the readings to wind power profiles for the site. INEEL donated the anemometer system to the Idaho Energy Division.

The Silver City Range project is part of an Idaho Energy Division program designed to scientifically identify potential wind power development areas on state owned land. The data being gathered would then form the cadre of any potential move by the state to market the sites to commercial wind developers. The Idaho Department of Lands is a partner in the project.

Idaho Energy Division engineers installed the first Silver City Range wind measurement site last fall. It is a 20-meter (66 feet) tower located at an elevation of 7,190 feet roughly 10 miles away in the Tennessee Mountain area, about 6 miles from Silver City.

Preliminary data from that Silver City Range site shows average winds in the area are about 13-14 miles per hour with gusts up to 78 mph. However, wind specialists believe average wind speeds will go up considerable during the spring through fall seasons.

-more-more-

Silver City Range – Page 2 of 2

Another state lands wind measurement site is located in the Windy Pass region of the Portneuf Mountains south of Lava Hot Springs. Preliminary data from that site shows average wind speeds of just over 14 miles per hour.

The state lands wind power project is just one component of a broader wind power prospecting and development program being managed by the Idaho Energy Division. This program also includes nearly a dozen anemometers on loan to citizens around the state who believe they have commercially viable wind resources on their property.

Idaho ranks 13th in the nation in wind power resources, but does not have a single large wind power project. However, about a dozen commercial wind power developers from around the world are now actively working in the state evaluating potential wind power sites.

Energy officials estimate there are more than a dozen different sites in the southern half of the state currently being scientifically evaluated by commercial wind power developers.

There has also been one large scale commercial wind project development announced – a 200 Megawatt project in the Cotterel Mountains in Cassia County being developed by Windland Inc., a Boise based wind power development company.